

Application Serial No. 10/570,739
Reply to Office Action of March 18, 2008

PATENT
Docket: CU-4717

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated March 18, 2008, the Examiner states that Claim 2 is pending and rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

At the outset, Applicant would like to thank Examiner Robinson for her time during the telephonic interview held on June 16, 2008. In light of the Examiner's remarks regarding the term "hydrophobic" during the interview, Claim 2 has been amended.

1. Rejection of Claim 2 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, because the Office Action considers that the Claim does not state the degree of hydrophobicity of the urethane resin. Solely in the interest of advancing prosecution and without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, Claim 2 has been amended to delete the term "hydrophobic." As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

2. Rejection of Claim 2 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Handforth (US 4,402,262) in view of Schnee (US 3,936,547) for the reasons of record. Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses this rejection.

Claim 2 has been amended solely in the interest of advancing prosecution and without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Applicant respectfully asserts that all of the features recited in Claim 2 and new Claim 3 are not taught or suggested in the cited prior art.

For example, currently amended Claim 2 recites the step of providing a decorative paper comprising a pattern ink layer and a bright ink layer on a paper base material. New Claim 3 recites a thermosetting resin decorative sheet exhibiting brightness and includes the feature of a pattern ink layer and a bright ink layer. The specification describes the pattern ink layer as not containing any bright pigments. Handforth and Schnee are completely silent with respect to the step of providing a paper base material including a pattern ink layer and a bright ink layer. As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that currently amended Claim 2 is not obvious over Handforth in view of Schnee and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of

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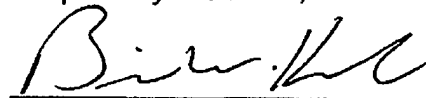
Claim 2 under 35 USC 103(a).

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

August 6, 2008

Date

Respectfully submitted,



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